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Chanticleer | The 2008 Abstract

Jacksonville State University

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**Lose weight fast!
Try the Ladiga Trail!**

Strange but true!
Organized Students!

Jacksonville State University

The Abstract **Aliens**

**Bat Boy
Found At
Baseball
Field!**

On

Campus!

Solve your boredom NOW!

Things to do

in Jacksonville!

(When you're not in class)

Forget Waldo:

**Where's
Wi-fi?**

Find out with the campus map!

Contents!



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From the staff of The Abstract

Dear Students,

College can be the most exciting time in a person's life. It can also be the most terrifying.

Hopefully, this issue of *The Abstract* will help you acclimate to life on (and off) campus here at Jacksonville State University.

We've racked our brains here at *The Chanticleer* to come up with interesting stories and useful information that you will need to know as you navigate campus life. From organizations that might interest you, to places to visit when you aren't in class,

The Abstract can serve as your guide to JSU.

The cover of this issue is meant to be a little silly. We were given new page sizes for this issue, and figured since it's tabloid size, why not make a mock super-market tabloid?

No, there aren't really aliens

on campus, but if you think about it, maybe there are. The aliens are you. For new students on campus, college life can be almost like visiting an alien planet. New experiences await you here. *The Chanticleer* will

be around all year to inform you of events, and to make sure your

campus experience is the best it can possibly be. Here's to a new year of college, may it be full of learning and growing for every student. Good luck!

Jered Staubs, Sports Editor

Sierra Sherer, Ad Director

Julie Skinner, Copy/News Editor

Zach Childree, Editor in Chief



From the desk of the President

Dear Students:

Welcome to Jacksonville State University! Your fellow students, faculty, staff and administration are pleased that you have made the wise decision to join us for the great adventure, which is Jacksonville State University.

Jacksonville State University is now your home. I urge you to become as familiar with your campus as you are with your own home. Your new campus, its buildings, programs in academics, athletics and

student life, as well as its faculty, staff and students, represent opportunities to enrich your future beyond your dreams and aspirations.

The Chanticleer staff has assembled an excellent guide for your new home, *The Abstract*. Here you will find not only the campus map and an outline of resources, but also advice on student life with articles from student leaders who want you to get the most from your university experience.

Take advantage of all JSU has to offer. The University has a \$100 million budget, 1,063 faculty and staff, a 459-acre campus, 58 major academic buildings, 43 baccalaureate degree programs and 25 graduate and professional degree programs all dedicated to your future. All you need to do is get involved!

Go for it,

William A. Meehan, Ed.D.
President



From the SGA

Hello Gamecocks!

On behalf of the Student Government Association, I enthusiastically welcome you to Jacksonville State University the "Best Kept Secret" and the "Friendliest Campus" in the South. I am certain that JSU is right for you, and SGA...well, we are too! I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity and become actively involved in student activities.

SGA is the avenue of acceptance open to all students residents and commuters, Greeks and independents, traditional and non-traditional. We serve as student representatives to the faculty and administration. Our decisions directly affect university policy. Your input is important and your opinions should be heard. My goal is to meet each of you in an effort to better relate to your concerns and provide a more personal representation of your needs. My office is located in room 402 of the Theron Montgomery Building. Talk to me and let me be your voice!

As you begin your journey at Jacksonville State, I urge you to make friends, make wise decisions and make a differ-



ence in the lives of those around you. This year, SGA is blessed with one of the most optimistic and energetic executive teams ever involved at JSU. These leaders, with their incredible ideas and extraordinary abilities, are ready and willing to serve the university. Let SGA lead your way to an amazing collegiate experience!

Your time has arrived to get "cocky", get excited and get involved at JSU! Campus life is what you make of it. Open your eyes to the new world around you, open your mind to the amazing opportunities and open your heart to your new Gamecock family!

Once a Gamecock, always a Gamecock!

Jennifer N. Nix,
President

Student Government Association

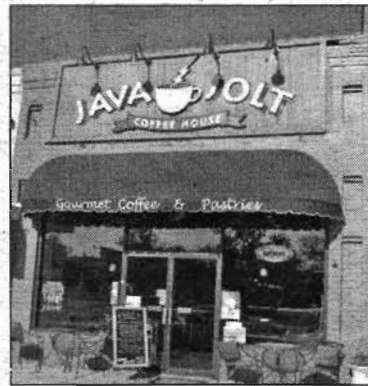


There is more to do than you think

By Jacob Probus
Senior Writer

Jacksonville State University is nestled in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. It rests in a veritable playground for those who dig the outdoors. Within a 30 minute drive lays several outdoor wonderlands. When you get home from a long day's play, there are several places in town to waste the night away.

The Chief Ladiga Trail runs right through the middle of the campus. It's a biking/walking/running trail that starts eight miles away, on the outskirts of Anniston, and connects at the Georgia state line to the Silver Comet Trail, taking you all the way to Atlanta. The trail is paved and rela-



tively flat, running through some pretty incredible greenery and scenery. During the spring and summer the trail is full of cyclists, walkers and runners. It is marked in miles and kilometers so you can keep up with the distance you've covered.

Cheaha State Park is 45 minutes from campus on the highest point in the state, Cheaha Mountain. The park offers camping, hiking, mountain biking, fishing, swimming, and awe-inspiring vistas. For a pretty incredible view without leaving Jacksonville, you can drive up to the fire lookout tower at the end of Mountain Street. Just head north on Mountain Street

until it winds its way to the top of the hill and take in a soaring view of the campus.

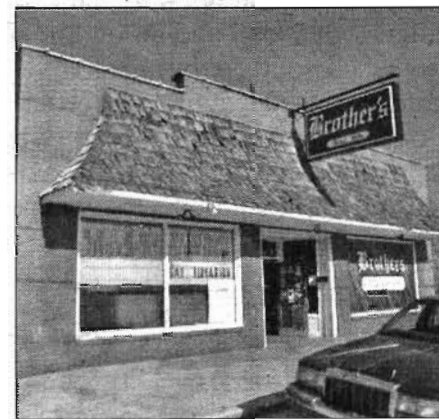
If you prefer your fun on the wet side, take a float down Terrapin Creek, 30 minutes from campus. The Terrapin Outdoor Center rents canoes for \$40, which you can split with a friend because they hold two paddlers. For \$25 you can rent a one person sit-on-top kayak. The price includes a shuttle service that carries you and your boat eight miles up creek to start your four to five hour float. After a scenic trek

down the creek that includes some mild whitewater action, the creek returns you to the canoe shop.

Choccolocco Management Area is just 15 minutes from campus and offers over 40,000 acres of wilderness where you can hike, mountain bike, camp, swim, canoe, hunt and fish. There are several camp grounds, some are primitive and some are fully furnished, offering bathhouses and RV hook ups.

There is plenty to do on campus as well. If you are a fitness freak, Stevenson Hall has a very nice gym over by the Theron Montgomery Building, and an Olympic sized swimming pool in the base-

See TO DO, Page 15



Not your mama's drama department

By Jalon Turner
Staff Writer

Looking for drama? Then the JSU drama department is where you want to be.

The drama department at Jacksonville State University is one of three schools in the state of Alabama to be accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST).

The department has lots of areas to which students can contribute. Students will learn how to make anything from costumes and backdrops to doing the lighting

and directing.

Students who are unsure if they want to act or be behind the scenes are offered an act-

ing class to help them decide if they want to be in the spotlight.

The Department does 5-6 main stage shows a year and one musical. All students can audition, not just drama majors.

The drama department covers many styles of performance. They do comedy, classical, musicals, Shakespeare, modern dramas, and original dramas.

There are several student-

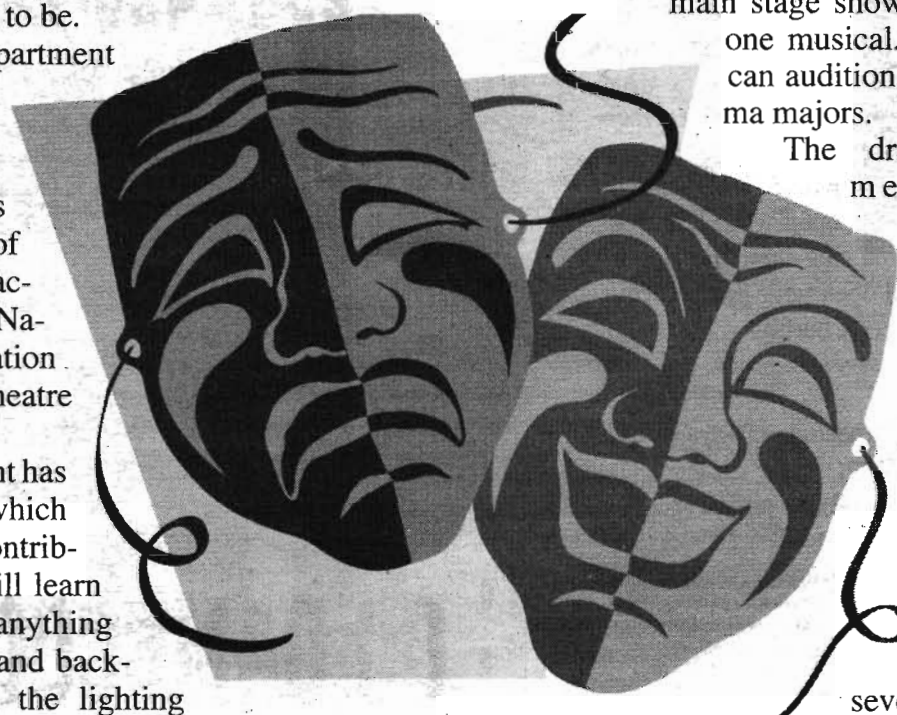
directed one-act productions each year.

Graduates of the drama department have attended top graduate theatre programs including NYU, Penn State and North Carolina School for the Arts.

The drama department offers one-on-one time between student and instructors that will help in careers in theatre field.

The department is part of a strong liberal arts program at Jacksonville State, and offers scholarships and work study.

With the upcoming shows in the fall, the drama department will be hosting tryouts the first two weeks of the semester. If you are interested, be on the lookout for flyers around campus or contact the department at 256-782-5623.



Advanced technology at your fingertips

MyJSU provides online access to JSU campus

By Chris Pittman
Staff Writer

Keeping up with advances in technology can be an impossible task in the age of computers. JSU's Department of Information Technology has gone above and beyond to put the school ahead of the game.

"We've come a long way in the last year," Vice President for Information Technology Randy Harper said. "The reason we have been able to do that is the extra effort put in by our students, faculty and staff."

The first step was the implementation of MyJSU, an administrative computing system created by SunGard.

"MyJSU is the doorway into the Banner system, which handles our registration and financial aid," Harper said. "It's the portal that allows access to everything important to the student in an easy to use manner."

Registration can be one of the biggest stresses of college life, but



the Banner system aims to ease any and all concerns.

Students simply click the registration link and they are presented with the ability to register for classes, view student records and review financial aid information. Clicking the registration link again will prompt another set of links which will lead students to the area for adding and dropping classes - simple and to the point.

When the user logs into MyJSU, they are presented with a sleek looking display that is easy to navigate. The navigation bar is handled with separate tabs that the user can click to peruse through the different features available. Students are able to customize this layout to their liking, and can even add links to their favorite web pages.

The main Web site is undergoing changes in order to provide a more up-to-date look. It will also help the different departments over campus to keep updated pages.

"The new system requires no HTML knowledge, which is something that hurt us in the past," Harper said. "Now every department on campus will be able to update their Web site using easy to use templates."

The templates provide a standard look that will be easily recognizable across all sections of the JSU Web

site.

Information Technology has worked hard to add new features for people to use while they are on campus.

Numerous wireless hot spots have been added to give students more opportunities to connect to the internet while at JSU. Wireless access is free to all students of the university upon completion of a small registration process.

The university has upgraded bandwidth from 34 megabytes per second to 45 megabytes per second. This increase will provide quicker access to anyone visiting the JSU

See MyJSU, Page 15



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From Russia, With Love

By Julie Skinner
Copy/News Editor

Ken Bodiford, director of bands at Jacksonville State University, was watching a commercial one night with James Bond in it. It was then that the idea for the Marching Southerners' 2008 production began to blossom.

"When you hear 'From Russia with Love,' you

think of the old James Bond movie," Bodiford said. "But it's really nothing about that, it's music based on Russian composers."

While the theme "From Russia with Love" is not completely centered on James Bond, it will have fragments during the show pertaining to the films.

The show, according to Bodiford, is going to be

very colorful this year. Costumes will go along with the Russian theme, as the Ballerinas will be dressed as Russian ice princesses and the color-guard will be dressed as Russian sailors.

"[The audience will] love it," Bodiford said. "I think they're going to enjoy the color, costumes and the music. It will bring the house down."



File photos/The Chanticleer

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Home for the weekend

Staying or going could affect your grades

By Shalon Montgomery
Staff Writer

The most exciting and terrifying experience a lot of incoming freshman face when going to college is leaving the nest. For most, it is the first time they will live on their own.

At Jacksonville State University, students travel home often on the weekends. There are a number of reasons why students do this, such as homesickness, jobs, significant others, disliking their dorm or apartment atmosphere or simply because they have more fun at home.

Freshman Jelisa Collin plans her time away from campus.

"When I go home, I'm usually working. I do my school work before I go home, so I will not have to study when I'm there," Collin said.

One of the consequences for their trips home could be a lower grade point average.

During the latter part of April, 50 random JSU students were

asked two questions: How often did they go home on the weekend, and what is their current GPA?

The purpose of the survey was to see what kind of effects frequent weekend visits home can do to a student's GPA.

During the survey, students were divided into two groups. The groups consisted of the "weekenders", students who went home more than once a month, and the "schoolers," who went home once a month or less.

"Although I stay at school on the weekend, I usually don't study. But I believe my GPA would be

lower if I went home on the weekends," Alina Lackey said.

The result of the survey showed that the average "schooler's" GPA was higher than the average "weekenders" by .33. This, according to Janet B. White, director of career placement services, is a significant amount.

"It is significant because if we did resumes using the averages from the survey, we would put the 3.2 on the resume, but we wouldn't put the 2.8 on there," White said.

The average GPA for a "schooler" was 3.17 while the average

GPA of a "weekender" was 2.84.

Although this survey showed that students who stayed on campus during the weekend had better grades than students who went home, White was quick to disagree about that being a well-accepted belief.

"Students establish study habits during their first 6 months of college life. It doesn't matter whether they go home or stay at school on the weekend, each student's GPA will be determined by how much responsibility they take for their school work, because being a college student is a full-time job," White said.



**Check out
The Chanticleer
every Thursday
(fall & spring
semesters)**

2008 Go! Leaders



Front row from left: Gilbert Allen, Samantha Magee, Drew Lindsey, Amanda Peek and Brett Smith.
Back row from left: Warren Sarrell, Kajuna Washington, Chad Hoffman, Destini Mayberry, Kyle Hicks, Lacey Kinsey, Zach Patterson, Jennifer Nix and Carrie Hicks.



Campus Bookstore still 'cocky'

More improvements than meet the eye

By Julie Skinner
Copy/News Editor

At Jacksonville State University, the bookstore is best known for... well... books. But, it is also the place where students buy their JSU threads. Yes, around here, you just don't feel like a true student unless you have a famous "cocky" tee. The shirt was designed by the student government association about six years ago, according to bookstore Manager Randall Stephens. Stephens said the t-shirts and slogan were designed to promote school spirit, and they've done just that.

"From Washington D.C to California to Iraq to Spain, we ship those t-shirts all over," Stephens said. "Who knows why some things catch on."

With a renewed Barnes and Noble contract and clothing sales continuing to grow each fall, the JSU Campus Bookstore has recently undergone a makeover.

The transformation has included new carpet, paint, floor tile and a brand new line of clothing.

"We've only had this out a few days and we're already selling it," Stephens said of the new clothes.

In order to provide more space for the clothing section,

the section for textbooks has been reorganized and shelves have been moved so that now

you can stand at the front and see to the back of the store.

"It's more inviting and easier to shop," Stephens said.

Even more convenient is the new pick-up window at

the back of the store for text-

books that have been ordered on the Internet. Now, students can order their textbooks online, bring their receipt and pick up their books without standing in line.

Jennifer Holmes, 20, works at the bookstore, and thinks the change will be pleasing to students.

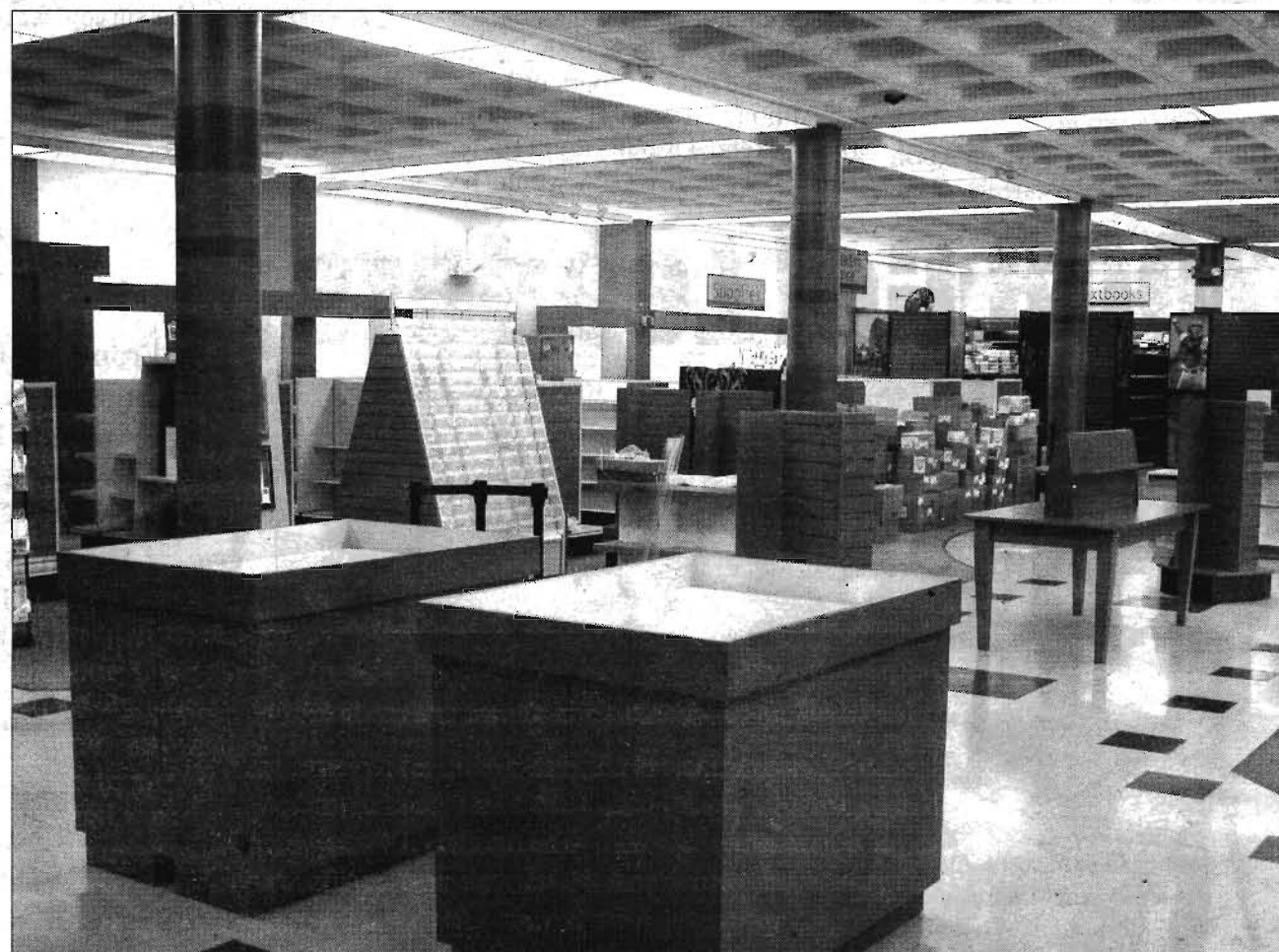
"With the rearrangement in the back, Internet orders will be less of a hassle for everyone," Holmes said. "I think the upper-classmen will appreciate it, but it will be a good environment for freshmen, too."

Beginning in the fall, stu-

dents will also be able to order clothing online. But no worries, though the store has invested in a new line of clothing, the cocky tees will still be in full swing this fall.

"As far as I know they're going to continue the 'cocky' shirts," Stephens said. "We plan on keeping those."

Look for the grand re-opening of the bookstore this fall. The date has yet to be decided, but Stephens said it will be close to the start of school and will feature giveaways and door prizes.



Photos by Zach Childree/The Chanticleer

The university bookstore looks bare during the renovation, but is still open.

From the trail to the stars

By Julie Skinner
Copy/News Editor

You're probably familiar with the bigger organizations around Jacksonville State University, such as the Student Government Association and the Baptist Campus Ministry. But JSU offers a wide variety of organizations that are often overlooked simply because students don't know much about them.

The JSU Northeast Alabama Astronomy League is a newer organization that many people aren't aware of. While the NEAAL are not recognized as an official club due to lack of members, they are hoping to gain student interest and expand their meetings and monthly star parties.

Saturday, May 24, was the most recent star party. At 7 p.m., the group gathered in the parking lot of McGee Science Hall and proceeded to Smith Farm in Piedmont, Ala. There, the lights from surrounding buildings and cities are hardly visible when the sun goes down. This, along with a clear sky, is an astronomer's dream.

In the middle of Smith Farm, members set up telescopes and rubbed down with bug repellent, preparing for a long night under the stars. John Gladden, 28, studied his planisphere, which displays the stars and constellations visible for the selected time of year.

"I was a farmer, so I grew up watching stars during the seasons," Gladden said. "The constellations you see in the sky won't be the same 6 months from now."

David Hofland, director of student services for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program, currently organizes the star parties. He's won various awards for his astronomical achievements.

"It's really the imagination of it," Hofland said. "What we see through our telescope isn't like what we see in magazines, so people are sometimes disappointed at

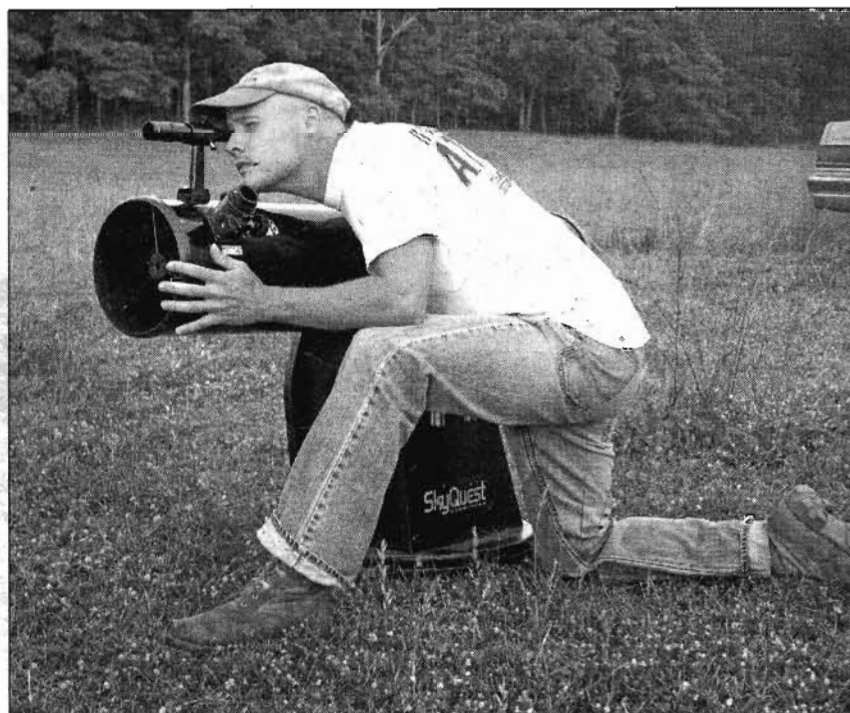


Photo by Julie Skinner/The Chanticleer

John Gladden prepares for a night of stargazing.

first."

Hofland compares looking through a telescope at galaxies, to flying over a big city and imagining what the people below are thinking, feeling and doing. He says that imagining planets with civilizations and things unknown, is both riveting and rewarding.

Besides looking at the usual stars, such as Polaris and Vega, constellations like Hercules, Leo, the Big Dipper and Virgo were also pinpointed, making members look in awe and respond with a "wow." For new members, looking at the sky and simply learning of the basic constellations and stars is rewarding, but for members who want a challenge, there is a system Hofland uses called SkyTools that helps identifying lesser known parts of the sky easier.

"I just get a kick out of finding the most galaxies I can find," Hofland said. "It's kind of like walking down a beach collecting shells."

For some, it's not even the star gazing that's enjoyable. Just being outside is what member Vaughn Adair enjoys.

"I come to these because I like being outside," Adair said. "If I wasn't here tonight, I'd probably be camping."

The night dwindled on until 11:45 p.m. when the light from the moon broke the sky, forcing the club to pack up and drive back to Jacksonville. After going to a star party, it would be hard to ever look at the sky the same way.

"It's hard to get people interested in it," Gladden said of the astronomy club. "People are sending all these things up in space, but most people can't identify the stars."

To join the NEAAL is simple. Showing interest and going to meetings is all that's necessary.

"If you ever get into it, you want to start off with identifying the sky, not buying a telescope, but getting familiar with the stars," Gladden said.

Another JSU organization that is seeking members and looking to raise interest is the JSU Cycling Club.

Dr. Ronnie Harris, the adviser of the cycling club at JSU, says that cycling is not only physi-

cally beneficial, but helps reduce stress.

"Cycling is an exercise where you don't have to carry your own body weight, so it's good for anyone," Harris said. "It's also good for improving cardio-respiratory endurance."

Jason Butler, 23, is a senior at JSU double majoring in economics and psychology. After an injury to his knee from running cross-country, he decided to join the cycling club to stay active and help build the strength back in his knee.

"Cycling is less taxing on the body than running would be," Butler said. "I would imagine that it would be less taxing on your lower back and on your joints from the pounding that you get from running."

Butler, who is now the president of the club, says that joining the cycling club is as easy as showing interest. There are no fees to join, and all you need is any kind of a bicycle and a willingness to ride. Amateurs are welcome and encouraged to ride at their own pace.

"It's a great place to meet people, from college students to professors," Butler said. "It's a good way to start a social network, and we are always looking for people to join."

According to Harris, each month there is a time trial to promote interest in the cycling club. Cyclists ride the Ladiga Trail, a 33 mile biking and walking trail, at their own speed the first Saturday of each month.

"You just ride as fast you can and it's designed to motivate you, to get you in shape and to have a good time," Harris said. "It's just a great sport and activity."

These two organizations are just a peek into the activities around JSU. There's a place for everyone, you just have to find it.



Bibb Graves Hall

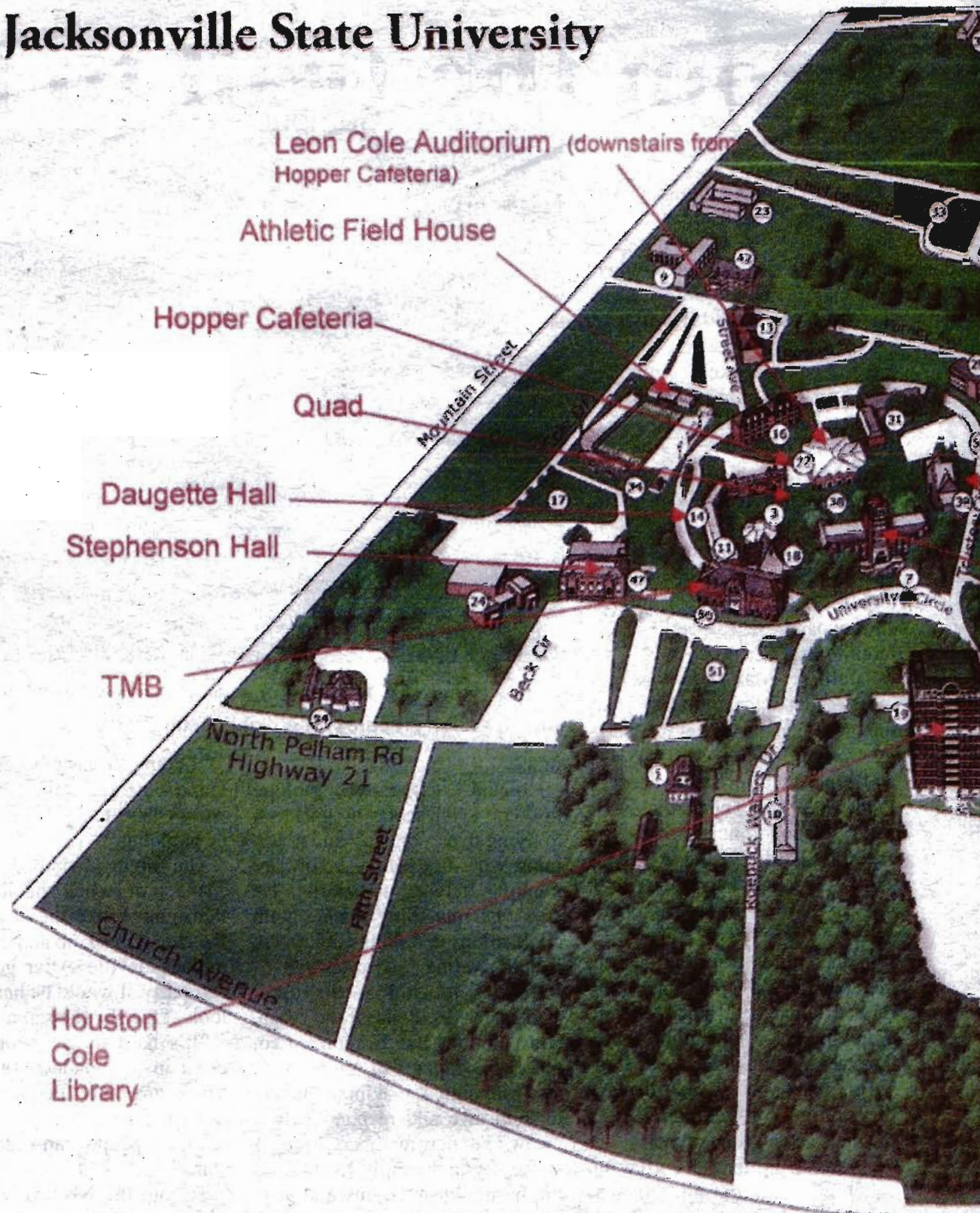


Daugette Hall



Carlisle Fine Arts Facility

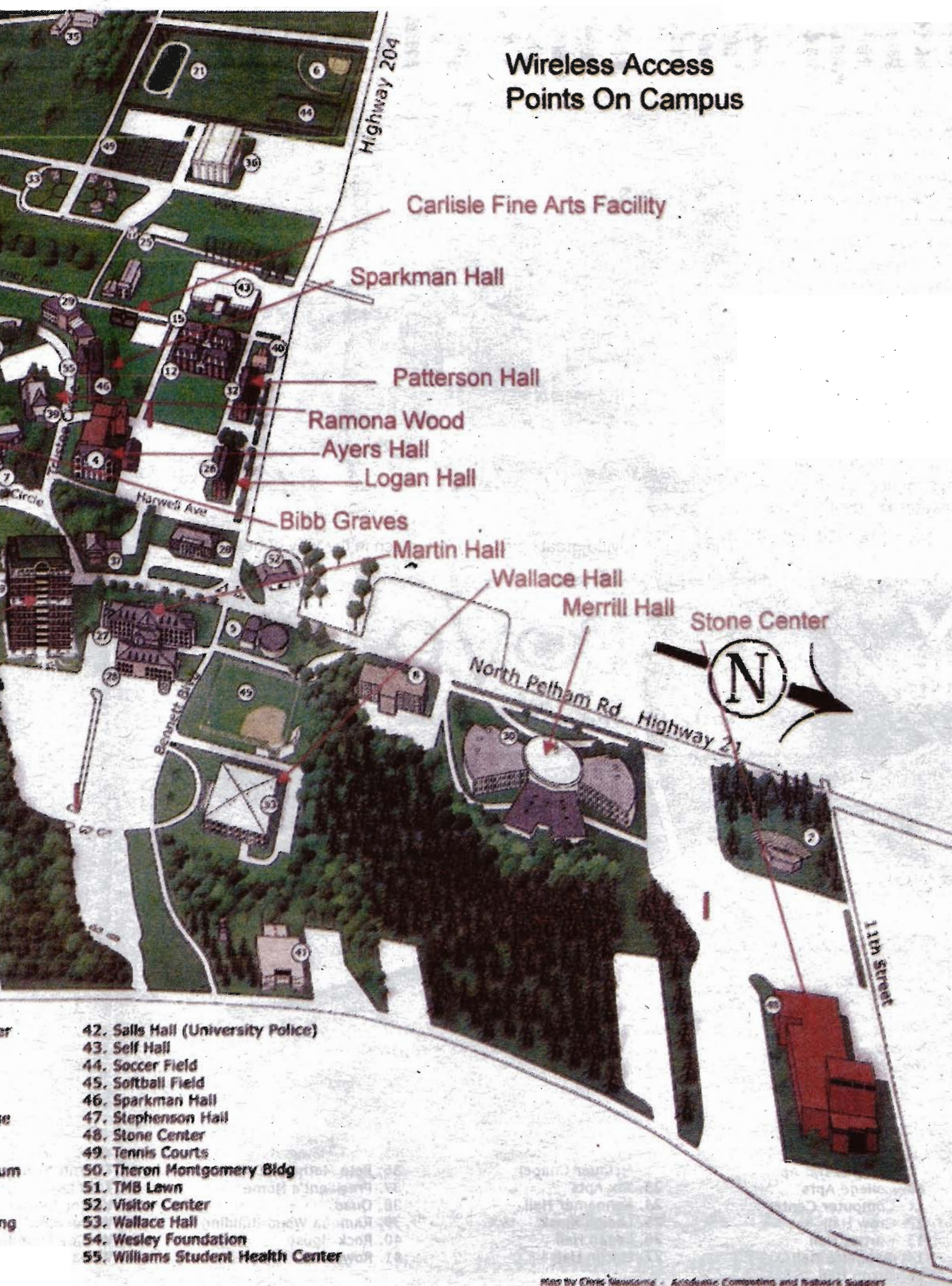
Jacksonville State University



1. Alumni House
2. Amphitheater
3. Anders Hall (Round House)
4. Ayers Hall
5. Baptist Campus Ministry
6. Baseball Field
7. Bibb Graves Hall
8. Brewer Hall
9. Campus Inn Apts
10. College Apts
11. Computer Center
12. Crow Hall
13. Curtiss Hall
14. Daugette Hall
15. Dixon Hall

16. Fitzpatrick Hall
17. Gamecock Field
18. Hammond Hall
19. Houston Cole Library
20. International House
21. Intramural Field/Track
22. Jack Hopper Dining Hall
23. Jax Apts
24. Kennamer Hall
25. Ladiga Kiosk
26. Logan Hall
27. Martin Hall

28. McGee Science Center
29. Mason Hall
30. Merrill Hall
31. Pannell Hall
32. Patterson Hall
33. Paul Carpenter Village
34. Paul Snow Stadium
35. Penn House Apts
36. Pete Mathews Coliseum
37. President's Home
38. Quad
39. Ramona Wood Building
40. Rock House
41. Rowe Hall



Houston Cole Library



Ramona Wood Hall



Hopper Dining Hall

Decorating on the cheap

By Julie Skinner
Copy/News Editor

So, you're finished with high school and ready to venture out into the college world. Getting a place of your own and preparing to decorate could pose a problem if you're not careful with budgeting your money. I mean, let's be real, you don't want to find yourself with empty pockets and no accessories to flaunt but a leopard-print couch...do you?

Cady Yarbrough, 17, and Lauren Phillips, 18, are incoming freshmen at Jacksonville State University. With the task of filling an unfurnished apartment, Yarbrough and Phillips are on a mission to find affordable, yet fashionable, décor.

"We will probably use a lot of hand-me-downs and things we already have," Yarbrough said. "We'll also shop at yard sales."

Instead of buying a washer and dryer brand-new, Phillips and Yarbrough have decided to take the washer and dryer passed down to them by family, and paint one of them pink with black polka-dots and the other black with pink polka-dots.

"I'm interested in color," Phillips said. "I want lots of color."

With both girls interested in art for their living room, and wanting to incorporate lots of color, they've decided to spray-paint canvases for their walls as

See **CHEAP**, Page 15



Photo by Zach Childree / The Chanticleer

The dorms provide great space, but not much in the way of decor.

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Thirteen Stories of Help and Learning

Houston Cole Library offers students many services

By Jacob Probus
Senior Writer

Houston Cole Library is the tallest academic building in the state, and the amount of help it offers students fills it from top to bottom. Many first time students are intimidated by the sheer size of the building, and the collection - they have nearly 700,000 items catalogued - but there are helpful staff members to guide your search and offer services to you, the student.

The dreaded research paper becomes a lot more tolerable when you have a professional to guide you through

it step by step. Research Assistance at Houston Cole offers students just that, according to Sonja McAbee, head of technical services. They will

even help you with the beastly citations and horrid bibliographies.

"Reference services I think is something that is taken for granted," says McAbee. "We do have a librarian at the desk, on the second floor, for anybody that has questions. Because this library is somewhat intimidating to freshman they need to be comfortable going to the librarian and letting them know what their needs are. We do one-on-one reference online, on the phone, or you can just come to the build-

ing."

The librarians are specialists in different subjects, according to McAbee. The seventh floor is the literature floor and the librarian up there has a master's degree in literature. "So he knows his stuff," she says. The sixth floor is foreign language, fine arts, and music and the librarian there teaches French at the university.

"We're all specialists, we're all generalist of course, but they [students] need to know that we do have specialist for their specific needs and majors," McAbee says.

The library has five laptops that they circulate for student use, according to McAbee. They have free wireless Internet so you can surf the web, and it reaches all the way out to the patio.

The Houston Cole Library is a member of the ALLIES Group, five colleges and universities in Alabama who share their collections with each other, according to McAbee.

"The students can borrow a book from UAB using their JSU ID," she says. "They can drop it off here and we'll get it back to them. Or you can go on line and if UAB has it [the book you need], or any of the other schools, you can put in a request and they'll mail it to us, and you can drop it off at any of the five libraries."

The library is filled with in-

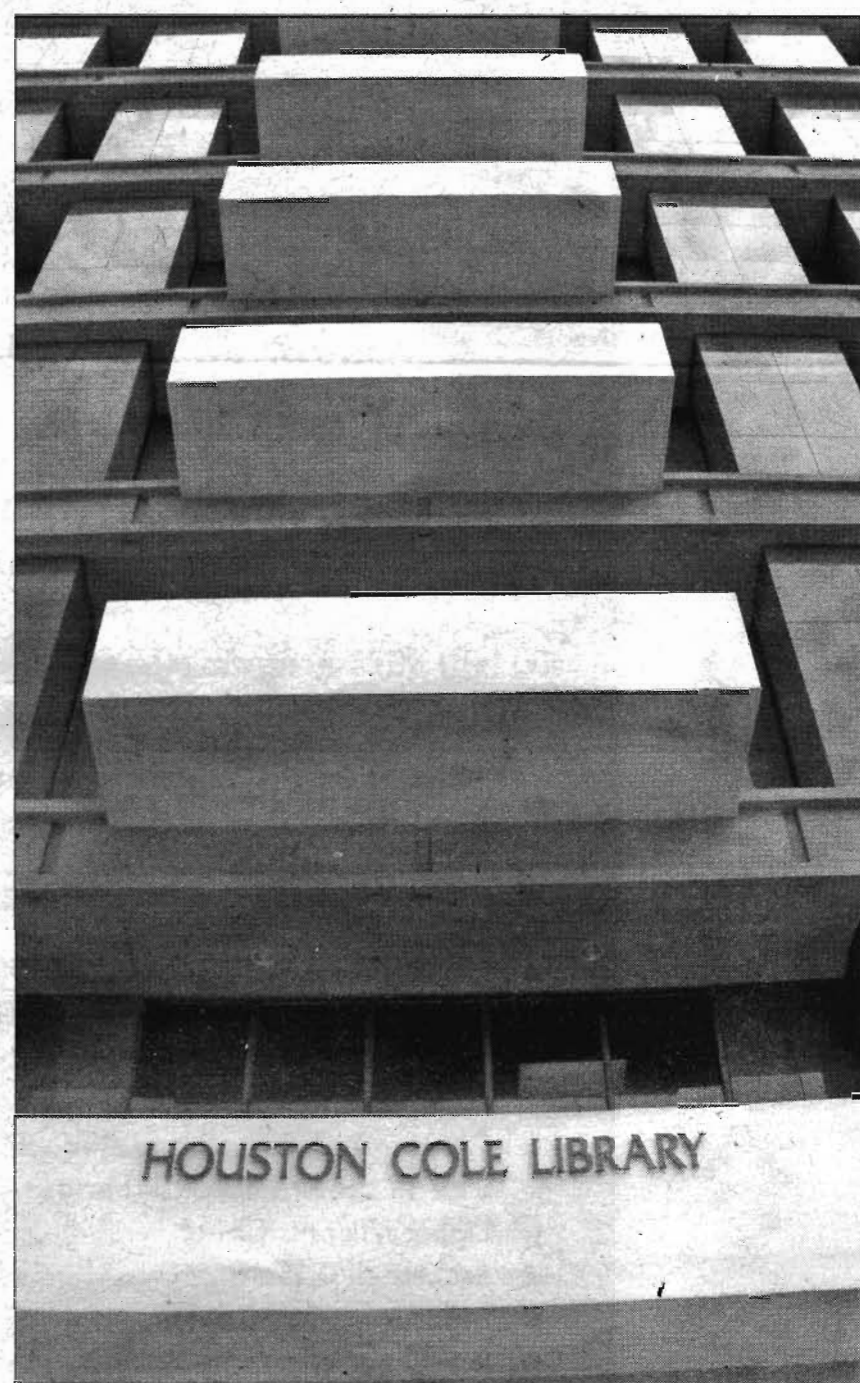


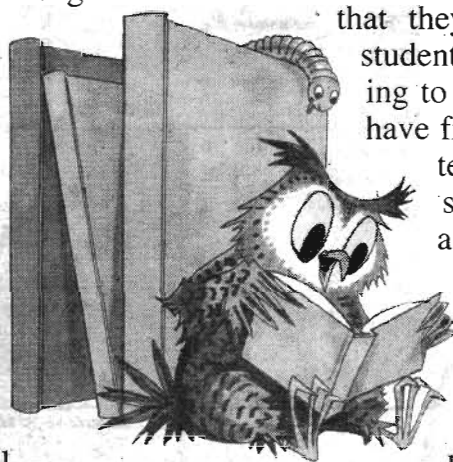
Photo by Julie Skinner / The Chanticleer

Houston Cole Library is the tallest building in Calhoun County.

teresting and historical items too, from the Oral History collection to a Chanticleer archive that dates back to the 40s. The library collection goes back 125 years just like the university.

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vices available at Houston Cole Library that can make your college career at least a little bit easier. It never killed anyone to read a book or check out a library either. Who knows, you might learn something.



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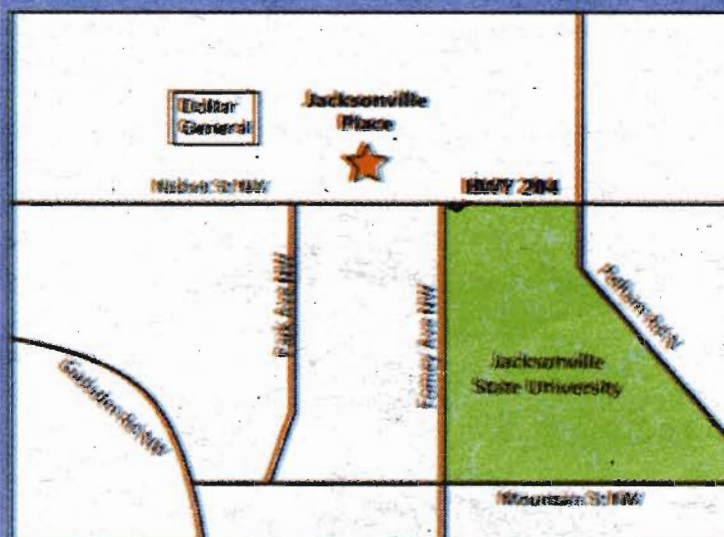
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To Do... from Page 4

ment of the Coliseum. There are also plenty of school-affiliated groups and organizations to get involved with, from Greek groups to Student Government.

So now that you've played out in the beautiful southern scenery and scorching sun all day or slogged it out in the gym or played a rousing game of intramural football, you've probably worked up a pretty good thirst and an appetite for the nightlife. No need to fret, there are plenty of watering holes around you.

Brother's Bar is the oldest tradition in drinking and music in Jacksonville.

It was opened over 30 years ago and the stage has seen the likes of The Allman Brother's Band and The Marshall Tucker Band. They still have live music on the weekends, showcasing local talent and the occasional big headliner.

On the square sits Brother's sister bar, Pelham's. In the back they have a beach vol-

leyball court, sand and all, and in the warm months they have friendly tournaments. Right around the corner on the square is The Vault in the old bank building. They serve

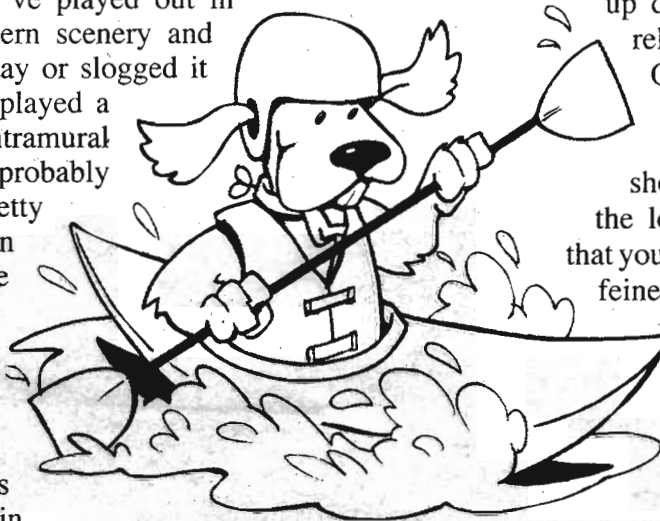
up drinks, food, and a relaxed atmosphere.

Opposite The Vault is Java Jolt, a cool little artsy coffee shop. This would be the logical first stop so that you may fuel up on caffeine to get you through the night. Then there is Jefferson's where you can get a mix of hot wings, beer, and karaoke. Up

the road toward Anniston

there is the Sports Nut, but the kitchen there burned down recently, so they are closed for now.

So if you like playing in the outdoors and bar hopping then you shouldn't get bored in Jacksonville. Even if you don't like these things there is plenty to do for you too. So get out, do what you love, and love what you do.



More info on the web

Cheaha

www.alapark.com/parks/park.cfm?parkid=7

Terrapin Outdoor Center

www.canoeshop.net

Chocolocco Management Area

www.fs.fed.us/r8/alabama/forests/shoal_creek/index.shtml

JSU Student Life

studentlife.jsu.edu

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MyJSU... from Page 5

Web site. It will also help students access their favorite pages at a blazing fast speed while on the network.

Student safety and protection has become a hot topic with the recent events of school violence on several campuses across the nation. An event notification system is in the process of implementation to alert students if such an event is taking place. The system will also be used to provide weather warnings.

"The system will allow emergency personnel to notify our students, faculty and staff when there is an emer-

gency on campus," Harper said. "This will provide text messages, phone calls and e-mails to everyone participating if an emergency is taking place."

The massive additions are not completely implemented yet, but Harper is pleased with how everything has fallen into place so far.

The extra work from everyone on campus has been a tremendous investment of time and effort," he said. "But we now have a platform and a structure that will support JSU for many years to come."



CHEAP... from Page 12

opposed to going out and buying paintings to hang.

Simple things such as these can come in handy when trying to conserve money. Yarbrough and Phillips also plan on bringing dishes from home instead of buying a new set. Sacrifices can be made in order to allow your money to go a long way.

Yarbrough, who works at an ice cream shop in Pell City, Ala., has already started saving for her new apartment by monitoring her spending on the weekends.

"I try to limit my money on the weekends. Like, if I eat out one night, then that's all I'll do that weekend," Yarbrough said.

Phillips is equally concerned with

watching her spending, and plans to tackle tasks as she comes to them.

"I just want to ease into it and do a couple things at one time, so I can gradually do it," Phillips said.

Decorating can be a time-consuming duty and can be very overwhelming. Taking things slowly, like Phillips plans to, can be helpful in keeping stress at a minimum.

Though it's tempting to go out and buy lavish decorations and brand-

name appliances, it's smart to realize your budget and stick with it. Cut corners as needed, and use recycled items when possible. Save the leopard-print couch for after you graduate and have the money to splurge.



Big man on campus

LSU transfer Perrilloux heads to Jacksonville

By Jered Staubs
Sports Editor

After three consecutive 6-5 seasons had taken some of the luster off the JSU football program, the arrival of a nationally known quarterback appears to have re-energized the community.

Former LSU quarterback Ryan Perrilloux will be taking the reins of the Gamecocks' offense this season, and there has been a palpable buzz around town since he committed to JSU on May 14.

In class, at Stephenson Hall, at local restaurants, Perrilloux's arrival has been the hot topic. People who know next to nothing about college football seem to have found an opinion on the matter. No matter the location, the general consensus is the same - the JSU football team has become interesting.

For a school that has long strived to compete for the attention of a community that seems more interested in Auburn and Alabama, Perrilloux's arrival could be the sparkplug that leads to JSU becoming an option on Saturday afternoons in the fall.

The timing could not be more perfect for a program that has greater ambitions than remaining a middle-tier OVC school. The school has been exploring the option of moving up to the highest level of college football, the Football Bowl Subdivision, and the Board of Trustees has proposed a \$36 million stadium expansion.

The biggest criticism of both moves has been the inability to fill the stadium currently, and Perrilloux — and the success that many feel he will bring to the program — could be the perfect solution.

Perrilloux's past

Perrilloux's dominant high school career led to a flurry of honors, most notably the 2004 Hall Trophy (nation's most outstanding high school player) and "Offensive Player of the Year" by USA Today.

Perrilloux was the first major recruit head coach Les Miles attracted to LSU, but with Ja-Marcus Russell and Matt Flynn in front of Perrilloux, he redshirted the 2005 season, and threw only one pass in 2006.

Last year, however, Perrilloux blossomed as part of a two-quarterback system, culminating in a 20-for-30 performance in the SEC Championship Game, a 21-14 win over Tennessee that led to the Tigers playing for - and winning - the national title.

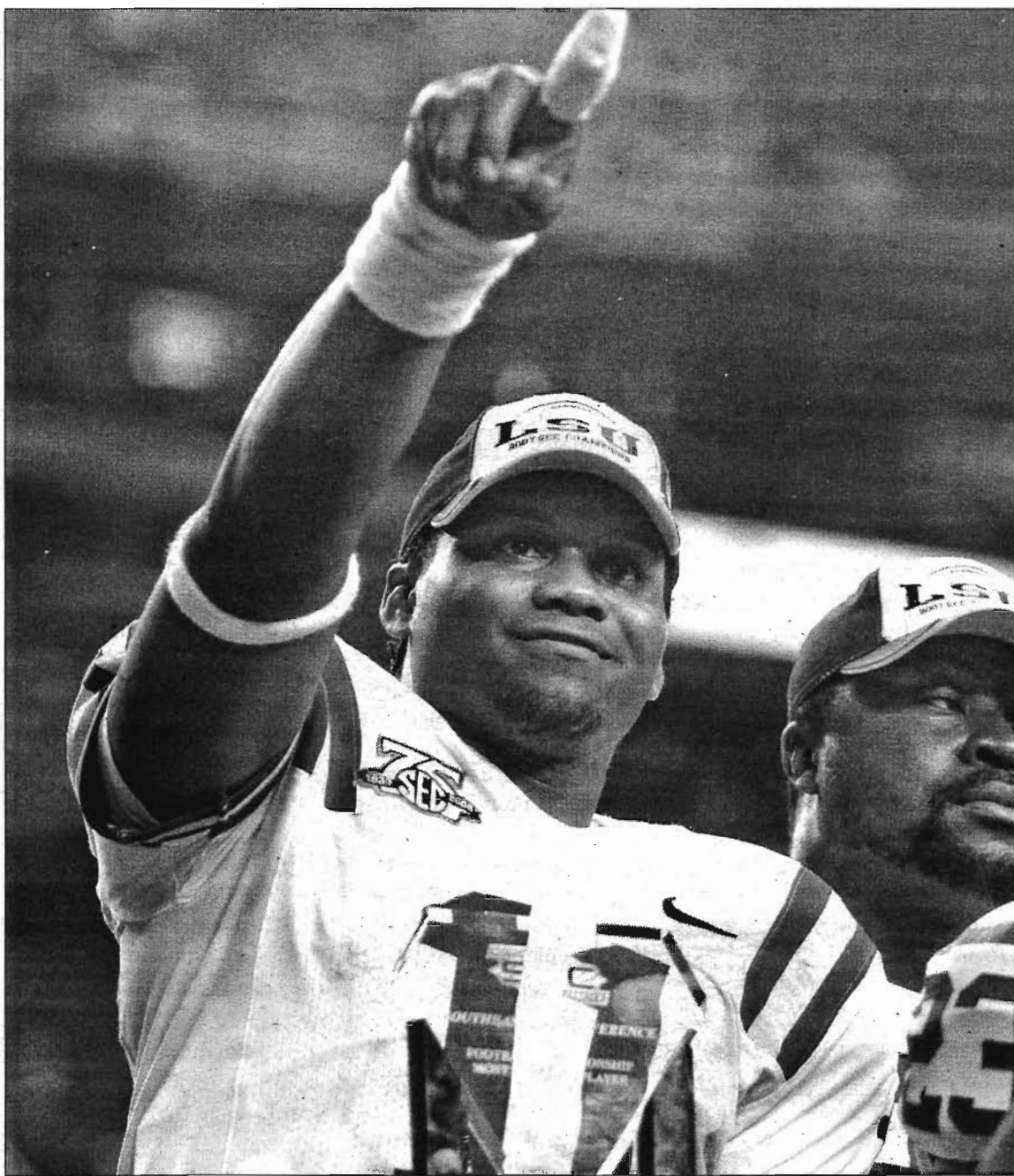


Photo courtesy of Dave Martin / Associated Press / File

Ryan Perrilloux celebrates after being named MVP of the 2007 SEC Championship Game, in which he led his team to a 21-14 victory over Tennessee. The win propelled LSU to a berth in the national title game.

But all was not good for the sophomore. He was caught trying to board a gambling boat despite being underage, and later was involved in a fight at a Baton Rouge nightclub.

On February 18, Miles indefinitely suspended Perrilloux for violating team rules, and he was

kicked off the team on May 2. Reports have indicated he failed a drug test, along with missing classes, workouts, and other team functions, though neither Perrilloux nor LSU have con-

See Perrilloux, Page 19

Climbing out of the cellar

Gamecocks hope new basketball coach will bring more success

By Jered Staubs
Sports Editor

After losing more than 20 games the past two years, and three of the past four, the Jacksonville State basketball program is looking to move in a new direction.

Former Mississippi Valley State coach James Green replaced Mike LaPlante after LaPlante's eight-year tenure ended with a 95-137 record.

Besides the poor record in recent seasons, there have also been off-court issues that led to multiple suspensions and the dismissal of Dorien Brown, the team's leading returning scorer and rebounder at the start of the 2006-2007 season.

Green has already shown the initiative of cleaning up the program, as he outlined his expectations in that area at his introductory press conference, including raising the team's GPA.

Green's Mississippi Valley State team won the SWAC Championship last year and qualified for the NCAA tournament as a #16 seed. The team won its final nine games of the season before being beaten badly by top seed UCLA in the first round of the tournament.

Green, who is the first African-

American head coach in any team sports at JSU, will inherit a relatively young team that only lost two players to graduation.

Senior point guard DeAndre Bray, who was a member of the committee in charge of finding LaPlante's replacement, will be one of the people expected to lead the transition under the new coaching regime.

Fellow senior guard Jonathan Toles will help in that area, as well as last year's leading scorer, Nick Murphy. There was rampant speculation that Murphy would transfer closer to his hometown in the Bronx, but after Green's appointment, Murphy announced that he would stay at JSU.

There were high marks during LaPlante's reign. LaPlante replaced current Texas A&M coach Mark Turgeon in 2001, and got off to a flying start. In his first season, LaPlante won more games than any first-year coach in JSU history. The 2002-2003 team went 20-10, the best record by a JSU team in almost a decade.

Green will try to make that type of season commonplace, and his success at Mississippi Valley State indicates he may be capable of tak-



Photo courtesy of James Harkins /JSUFan.com/File

Amadou Mbodj scores inside in a 57-53 loss to Samford at Pete Mathews Coliseum on January 7.

ing the Gamecocks to that consistent level.

After serving as the head coach at Southern Miss for eight seasons, he spent three seasons at MVSU.

His teams won the 2007 SWAC regular season title and the 2008 SWAC tournament title. He was named 2006-2007 SWAC Coach of the Year.

Parris will return to announcing booth for football

By John Nickolson
Special to the Chanticleer

The voice of the Gamecocks will be returning to the football broadcast booth this fall. Legendary JSU broadcaster Mike Parris will call football games for the Gamecock Sports Network for the first time since 2005.

The news of the change, which was first reported by campus ra-

dio station WLJS-92J in early March, has seemingly been well received by most Gamecock fans.

Parris has been handling the play-by-play duties for all JSU sporting events on the Gamecock Sports Network since 1983.

Birmingham sports radio veteran Matt Coulter replaced Parris in the football radio booth at the beginning of the

2006 season. The official reason was to allow Parris to devote more time to his other job on campus, which is handling the athletic department's marketing responsibilities.

The move was not well received by many longtime Gamecock fans. Most notably, the JSU fan Web site gojaxstate.com was flooded with criticism of the original move.

Parris continued to cover men's and women's basketball games for the Gamecock Sports Network.

Before the start of the 2007 baseball and softball seasons he was replaced by then Gadsden radio personality and PA announcer for JSU football and basketball games Carl Brady. Parris returned to calling both baseball and softball for the 2008 seasons.

Former Jacksonville State All-American quarterback Ed Lett will continue to serve as color commentator for the football broadcasts. Lett began calling games for the Gamecock Sports Network with Coulter in 2006.

All of the games broadcast by the Gamecock Sports Network can be heard on WLJS 91.9 FM.

Soft-ballin'

Gamecocks coast through OVC, give Alabama a scare

By Jared Gravette
Associate Sports Editor

Jana McGinnis and the members of the Jacksonville State softball team put together arguably the greatest season in program history during their 2008 campaign.

The Gamecocks not only made it to Regionals for the first time since 1996; they made it all the way to the championship game against the third seed Alabama Crimson Tide.

JSU didn't come away with the Regional title but did beat a very talented Florida State squad twice, notching their very first NCAA tournament victory.

"We really made history. There has never been a team at JSU to win at Regionals," McGinnis said. "I don't know if we had ever beaten Florida State (they hadn't before this season). Florida State has a very reputable program. They have been there, done that.

"To beat a program like that not only once, but twice, I think it was huge for our program. Our goal was to always go to Regionals and try to win, and we lost to one of the best teams in the country.

"I don't think our team has anything to be ashamed of. I think they've got everything to be proud of. They definitely raised the bar and set the standards."

The Gamecocks played a very difficult non-conference schedule with games against programs like Alabama, Auburn and Ole Miss. That experience against top notch competition helped JSU steamroll through their Ohio Valley Conference schedule, winning the regular season and tournament titles with ease.

The most bittersweet victory for the Gamecocks came in the conference title game against Tennessee Tech. The Golden Eagles had



Photo courtesy of James Harkins JSUFan.com/File

Leftfielder Rachel Fleming accepts her award for being named OVC Tournament MVP after the Gamecocks defeated Tennessee Tech in the final game of the tournament.

consistently knocked JSU out of the tournament over the years, but the Gamecocks dismantled them by a score of 10-1.

"I was proud of our team for their conference play," McGinnis said. "We had to win conference in order to host the conference tournament. Then we hosted the conference tournament. What a great, great time. We had great crowds.

"To beat Tennessee Tech, who had put us out three out of the last four years, I think it couldn't have been scripted any better. I was very proud of our team. It was a fun season."

It was nothing short of a milestone season for the Gamecocks. Not only did they win their first Regional game, McGinnis also captured her 500th victory at JSU in a 7-6 victory over Kennesaw State.

"It probably meant more to our program than to me personally," McGinnis said. "From a personal standpoint, it just made me think back to all of the good players that I've been fortunate to coach."

"It just made me reflect back on how lucky I am to have my two assistants and how lucky I am to have good players and good people come through our program. It

was a testament to them actually more than me."

Next season, JSU will bring back all but four players from their OVC championship squad. Players like Rachel Fleming, Whitney Elder and Alana Hicks will be missed, but the core of the team will return.

The Gamecocks will also get pitcher Karla Pittman back to provide another valuable arm alongside OVC Freshman of the Year Ashley Eliasson. Needless to say, it will be a very difficult task to unseat JSU as the defending OVC champs.

Everything but the ending

Baseball team dominates OVC, comes up short in tournament

By **Jered Staubs**
Sports Editor

The Jacksonville State baseball team has established itself as the cream of the Ohio Valley Conference, but the 2008 season ended in unexpected disappointment.

After compiling a 23-4 conference record and a 17-game winning streak that was the longest in the nation entering the OVC tournament, the Gamecocks were surprising eliminated from the conference tournament despite being healthy favorites.

JSU won every series against OVC opponents this season, sweeping five series and winning two of three against the rest of the conference teams.

The Gamecocks used a dominant offensive performance throughout the season — they scored 10 or more runs on 17 occasions — and quality pitching to distance themselves from the OVC pack through the season.

Still, the top seeded Gamecocks fell to eventual champion Eastern Illinois and SEMO in the conference tournament, and were denied what many assumed was a clear bid into the NCAA tournament.

After making it to the final game of the OVC Tournament four consecutive seasons — and winning twice — the elimination was a surprise to all involved with the program.

The season was not

without its positive memories, as JSU took home the two major conference awards. Head coach Jim Case was named OVC Coach of the Year, and senior rightfielder Clay Whittemore was named OVC Player of the Year.

It was the second season in a row Whittemore was honored with the award. He hit an unheard of .425 on the season, and led the team in hits (96), doubles (19), triples (6), home runs (8) and RBI (66).

Whittemore was the cleanup hitter in one of the most potent offenses in the nation. Freshman Todd Cunningham, from Jacksonville High School, led off for the Gamecocks, and quickly emerged as an elite option at the top of JSU's lineup.

In total, seven Gamecocks finished the season hitting .300 or better.

Whittemore is expected to be the latest in a long line of the many recent draftees who have transformed JSU into the crème de la crème of the conference. Donovan Hand, who was drafted a year ago, was recently called up to Brewers Double A affiliate in Huntsville.

Case and the Gamecocks will try to build on that tradition next year, as they look to win over 30 games for the seventh consecutive season.

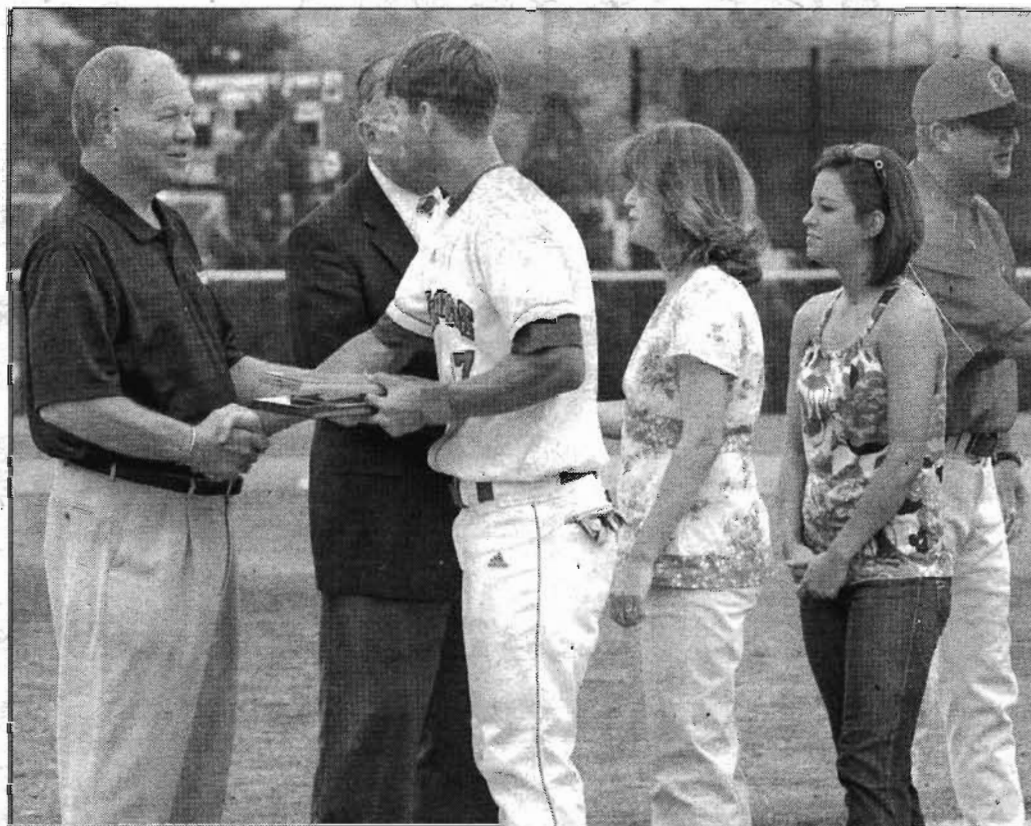


Photo by Bill Schmidt, courtesy of James Harkins /JSUFan.com/File

Record-setting rightfielder Clay Whittemore and family are honored on Senior Day by Athletic Director Jim Fuller (far left), President Bill Meehan (second from left) and head coach Jim Case (far right).

PERRILLOUX... from Page 16

firmed the specific transgressions.
Perilous?

Despite the excitement Perrilloux has created, some feel that JSU is making a mistake. After losing six scholarships in football and dismissing previous quarterback Cedric Johnson for repeated violations, the timing has generated some skepticism.

Here's what the biggest sports personality in the state, Paul Finebaum, had to say about it in an article entitled "Crowe sells his soul for quarterback".

"You want to know what's wrong with sports? Let me quickly point you in the

direction of Jacksonville State and its unconscionable decision to allow Ryan Perrilloux to play football this season for the Gamecocks."

Perrilloux has left himself open to that type of skepticism with his prior actions, but he has said all the right things since being dismissed from LSU, and his supporters will argue that his mistakes have been small.

He'll have his chance to start endearing himself to the JSU fans when the Gamecocks play at Georgia Tech on August 28 in a game to be shown on ESPN.

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